



RULES OF DECORUM FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF LANCASTER, TEXAS

Preamble: The Lancaster Municipal Court is a municipal court of record and is governed by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and of the State of Texas.

In order to show respect, dignify the court and facilitate justice, the following rules of decorum shall be applicable to matters heard in the Municipal Court in Lancaster, Texas.

Conduct Required of All Persons While Attending Court

1. The Court requires that everyone interacting with court personnel in an official capacity to conduct themselves respectfully.
2. Disorderly conduct, including offensive, racist, sexist, vulgar, threatening language or behavior while on the Municipal Court premises, including the lobby and parking lot will not be tolerated. Abusive or disorderly conduct towards staff, judge or prosecutor will be subject to removal from the Municipal Court by the Bailiff.
3. All persons entering the courtroom are required to pass through the metal detector. Any person refusing to pass through the metal detector or having their belongings searched will not be allowed entry to the courtroom. All person property including purses, brief cases, hand bags, fanny packs, and outer clothing are subject to search by the Marshal at any time.
4. Address the Judge as “Judge” or “His or Her Honor”/”Your Honor”, or “Yes Sir/Ma’am” or “No Sir/Ma’am” during proceedings.
5. No weapons are allowed in the courthouse in accordance with Texas law.
6. Proper attire must be worn for courtroom appearances, e.g. no clothing indicating gang affiliation or showing offensive, vulgar, racist or obscene language is allowed. No tank tops, muscle shirts, exposed midriffs, shorts or bare feet. Underwear must not be exposed. Please remove hats, caps, and sunglasses not required by a prescription etc. before entering the courtroom. **An exception is any headwear that is of religious significance.**
7. No bundles, packages, duffle or utility bags, back packs, umbrellas or oversized purses will be allowed in courtroom.
8. All cellular phones and other electronic devices shall be turned off before entering the courtroom. **No video or audio recording is allowed in the courtroom.**
9. No food, drinks, gum or tobacco products are allowed in the courtroom during court proceedings, including snuff or e-cigarettes.

10. No one will be allowed to sleep, eat, chew gum, talk loudly, play games of kind, read newspapers, or otherwise engage in disruptive activity while in the Municipal Court.
11. **There will be no defacing of court property anywhere within the courthouse. Violators will be prosecuted.**
12. The court discourages bringing small children to court appearances; however, should they appear, they must remain under constant parental supervision. Parents of children will maintain control of their children, preventing disruptive behavior.
13. No one may talk while the Judge is on the bench unless directed to do so by the judge or by court personnel.
14. Any conduct that expresses approval or disapproval of any testimony, statement, or court transaction is not respectful and will not be allowed in the courtroom.
15. Reading by nonparticipants in court proceedings shall not be permitted in the courtroom if it causes noise or other distractions.
16. Persons shall remain seated in the courtroom unless the Judge is taking or leaving the bench.
17. No one shall approach the bench unless directed to do so by the Judge or having received the Judge's permission to approach the bench. Persons will not lean on the counter in front of the Judge's bench.
18. Dockets shall begin promptly at the scheduled times. All parties must arrive on time to court proceedings. Late parties will be counted absent.
19. The Marshal reserves the right to deny access to any person or item for the safety of all concerned.
20. Marshals shall carry out other directives and orders issued by the Judge.
21. All attorneys and pro se defendants are required to conform their conduct to the above stated Rules of Decorum.
Violation of the Rules of Decorum may constitute Contempt of Court and may be punishable by a fine and/or confinement pursuant to Section 21.002(c), Government Code.

Signed and entered this 23rd day of May, 2019.



Henry L. Campbell, Presiding Judge
Lancaster Municipal Court